

2003 COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



Amy A. Costello *Outstanding Leadership*

Air Quality Program Manager
Environmental Division
Central Office

As manager of the Environmental Division's air conformity program, Amy is responsible for supervising regional air quality analyses in Virginia's ozone non-attainment and maintenance areas. She provides technical quality control and participates in the division's strategic planning for the Air, Noise and Energy Section.

Since becoming the manager a year and a half ago, Amy has demonstrated superior leadership skills, elevating the program to new heights. She first conducted a comprehensive cost benefit analysis. It revealed that performing air quality analyses through consultants was cost-prohibitive and that training staff to perform analyses would save \$2.4 million tri-annually. Consequently, Amy acquired additional staff members and experts to train them, facilitating the training herself to keep costs at minimum. Next, she partnered with the Research Council to refine models and methodologies for the analyses, working to ensure their completion on time and on budget.

To put this huge accomplishment in perspective, you must realize that failure to demonstrate air conformity would have stopped the progress of many highway and transit projects. Fully aware of the risks involved, Amy took on this challenge, knowing that it was the right thing to do. Today, VDOT's conformity program has moved from complete dependence on consultants to complete self-sufficiency.

Nominated by: Ahmet C. Anday

